



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - September 24, 2002

- ***In the West***, hot, dry conditions persist in the ***West Coast States***, promoting fieldwork but leaving Northwestern winter wheat in need of moisture. Elsewhere, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork.
- ***On the Plains***, very cool weather is slowing winter wheat emergence across ***Montana***. Elsewhere in the region, warm, dry weather favors fieldwork and winter wheat development, although more rain is needed for proper autumn wheat establishment in much of ***Nebraska and neighboring States***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, dry weather favors summer crop drydown and harvesting. Widespread frost and temperatures near the freezing mark (32 degrees F) were noted this morning across the ***northwestern Corn Belt***, signaling near-normal timing for the end of the growing season. Meanwhile in the ***eastern Corn Belt***, early-planted winter wheat is benefiting from recent soil moisture improvements.
- ***In the South***, Tropical Storm Isidore is re-emerging over the ***Gulf of Mexico*** after about 36 hours over the ***Yucatan Peninsula***. Showers are overspreading the ***central and eastern Gulf Coast States*** well in advance of the storm. Elsewhere in the ***South***, warm, dry weather favors a return to fieldwork, following recent heavy rainfall.

Outlook: Tropical Storm Isidore is forecast to move slowly northward across the ***Gulf of Mexico***, posing a threat later in the week to the ***central Gulf Coast region***. Meanwhile, tropical moisture in advance of the storm will fuel locally heavy showers across the ***Gulf Coast and Southeast***. Farther north, cool, unsettled weather will prevail across the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***, but mostly dry weather is expected elsewhere from the ***Pacific Coast to the Northeast***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for September 29 - October 3 calls for below-normal precipitation ***west of the Mississippi River***, but wetter-than-normal conditions in the ***Northeast***. Below-normal temperatures are expected on the ***northern Plains*** and from the ***Mississippi Valley eastward***, while warm weather is forecast in the ***Southwest***.

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